

## HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2002

HAMNET is the Official Emergency wing of the South African Radio League and is responsible for providing emergency communication in times of distress and national disasters to local and regional authorities, when requested to do so.

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### IN THE BULLETIN TODAY

Emergency communication by amateur radio stations. Bulletins around the country News from around the Country Dates to Diarise Are today's Hams ready to handle emergencies?

Amendment of Chapter 1 of the Telecommunications Act.

What follows, because of its length, will be abbreviated but the full version is available for perusal.

This is an extract from a communique issued by Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri. She is the Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting and has a bearing on our hobby and our service as emergency communicators. Herewith an extract from the new regulations as it affects Amateur Radio in South Africa. This extract has a direct bearing on Emergency Communications.

Quote:-

(1) The Licensee is permitted:

(a) to engage in communication with other licensed amateur stations, using the permitted Amateur Bands, which shall be restricted to comments on technical investigations, remarks of a personal nature and other items of a common interest. No derogatory, racist, sexual, irreligious, improper, blasphemous, insulting, obscene or threatening remarks shall be transmitted;

(b) In the case of an emergency, where the safety of life or limb is at stake, to communicate with any other stations, using the Amateur Bands and other bands outside the amateur allocation, to prevent loss of life, to render assistance, to call for assistance or convey health and welfare messages, directly connected with the emergency, under the permission of the Authority.

(c) (c) to practice emergency communications by providing communications for cyclone marathons, rallies and general community service, especially in times of national interest. Providing that the station engaged in the practice be registered with the national body representing amateur radio in the Republic of South Africa.

(d) (d) to carry out communications in plain language or Q Code

- (e) To send signals (not enciphered) which form part of, or relate to, the transmission of messages (e.g. Identification Tones)
- (2) No amateur radio station or license holder shall transmit political, derogatory, racist, sexual, irreligious, improper, blasphemous, insulting, obscene, or threatening remarks.
- (3) No amateur station or license holder shall advertise any goods or services or anything else, or transmit any news or messages on behalf of a third person on an amateur station: provided that the Authority may authorise a licensee to transmit;
- (a) Reports on behalf of or by a third person during events that are in the judgement of the Authority in the public interest
- (b) Information bulletins that are of direct interest to amateurs; and
- (c) Morse Code for reception by persons learning Morse Code operation or for improving their competence in Morse.
- (4) (4) For the purposes of this regulation, messages and signals include communication modes or types of modulation permitted in the Schedule.
- (5) (5) Appointed stations of the recognised national body representing Amateur Radio of South Africa are permitted to broadcast news bulletins and programs of general interest which are of a general nature, to further the Amateur Radio Service, radio science and electronics generally.
- (6) (6) No amateur radio station or license holder shall advertise any goods or services or anything else, or transmit any news or messages on behalf of a third person except as outlined in sub-regulations
- (7) and (3).
- (8) (7) Stations registered as educational stations will be allowed to demonstrate to persons who do not hold a amateur radio license by allowing them to speak and operate the station under the supervision of a licensed amateur at a club station participating in a special educational event or at educational institutions.

The licensed amateur and the event must be registered with the recognised national body representing amateur radio in the Republic of South Africa.

#### HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sunday morning kicks off with Hamnet KZN at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Wally ZS5WP.

Followed with the national Bulletin on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Martin ZS6MSG. In Gauteng, 145,700Mhz is also used for a local transmission. The time is 17h00 local.

Next we have Gauteng North. Their bulletin is read on Tuesdays at 20:30 local time to accommodate those who are in church on a Sunday evening. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Last but not least is Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 3,674MHz relayed by Matt ZS1MJJ in the 80M band and on their local repeaters, 145:625Mhz, 145:700Mhz, 145:750Mhz and various other links.

Whatever you missed please access the S.A.R.L. Website under the heading “Hamnet News - regularly updated”, for the latest news or if you are on Packet, it will have been sent to you thanks to Rudie ZS6DX.

#### NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Apart from listening to the various bulletins, should there be news from your area for the main bulletin, please send your contributions to francois@overflow.co.za.

Contributions are always welcome and it also supplements the Sunday get together on 10,130 and 7,070. It also helps to add some spice to the regular Sunday bulletin.

I would like to suggest that every Provincial Director, appoint a person on his or her committee to be responsible for the gathering of items for inclusion in our regular HAMNET news bulletins.

If you are not a member of HAMNET, and would like to join an emergency team in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information. Please also note that the HAMNET questionnaire and/or HAMNET applications form is available on the website of the SARL under the heading “forms”.

#### DATES TO DIARISE

Probably the main date of the month surely must be the 17th of June, Comrades Marathon day.

Keith Lowes ZS5WFD and the KZN Hamnet team will again be fully utilized to ensure communications during this long and gruelling race. This year it is the up run and all eyes again will surely be fixed on Polly shorts, the hill that separates the champions from the, well, maybe not so fortunate runners.

We wish Keith and the boys (and ladies) a successful day and good communications.

Schools also close on the 21st of June in the following provinces; Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Free State.

A week later, on the 28th, schools close in KZN, Western Cape, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

We do not anticipate major traffic on closing days but it will be appreciated if we could spend some time monitoring our emergency frequencies, especially on 7,070MHz.

#### ARE TODAY'S HAMS READY TO HANDLE EMERGENCIES?

At outset, I wish to thank Charles J Hargrove, N2NOV, for allowing me to reproduce an article he posted in the QRZ.Com website in May. Charles is associated with the Navy MARS, New York City ARES District Emergency Coordinator./RACES Radio Officer/Skywarn Coordinator, plus a few more organisations not known to us here in South Africa.

The article has been shortened to prevent this bulletin from becoming a short novel.

“Since the events of September 11th, I have read many messages regarding the role and acceptance (or lack of) of amateur radio operators in their communities with regards to emergency communications. As the NYC District EC for ARES and the Citywide RACES Radio Officer, I'd like to weigh in with some thoughts of reality”.

“Over the years I have heard many hams tell me that they either: a) a) belong to a club that supports emergency communications are prepared to provide support when the time comes. b) b) are fully capable of non-AC power operation, have the needed rigs, antennas and fully equipped to answer the call c) c) will come out and be ready to help when a”real” emergency happens. d) d) applaud and support the efforts of those of us in ARES &/or RACES because we help remind the Government why ham radio exists and not to take away “our” frequencies”.

“While those trying two weeks after 9/11 did produce 250+ hams to help with various logistics, out of over 500 who volunteered, most were either already active in ARES/RACES and/or came from outside the NYC area. Nowhere to be found were many of those who stated to my face the above four statements who never joined/trained/served with either of the emergency groups in non-emergency public support events or training”.

“I continue to see comments in various threads all over the internet (and even here at QRZ) that they are ready to do their part, but never an indication that they are being trained in an organized manner with a local ARES or RACES group.”

“Without this seemingly mundane training/”standing on a street corner” for a walk-a-thon or parade, you will never have the practical knowledge to perform when the chips are down”.

“Book knowledge, cw speed, and an adequate equipment arsenal will not help you if you have had no practical experience. A mentor from my twenties jokingly coined an 11th Commandment: Thou shalt not kid thyself”.

Enough said. This article was, the way I read it, geared for the amateurs who sit on the side and watch things happen.

My feeling, here in South Africa, has a slight slant on what was said by Charles, and I fully agree with his comments.

We, as I have said so many times before, are so lucky here in our country. We are not prone to the many problems emergency organisations in America have to face, on an almost a daily basis. But how prepared are we as HAMNET members to answer the call.

How often do you participate in “mundane” exercises to sharpen up your communication capabilities? When was the last time you saw an article in your local press, where HAMNET could be useful in providing communication in a road race, a marathon or a swim event.

Please be on the lookout for such events. Lets make use of them to not only sharpen up our communication skills, but also make the community out there aware of the name “HAMNET”, an Amateur Radio communication medium available to the community, by frequencies allocated to us by ICASA, which we so often just take for granted or regard as “our” frequencies.

Our Amateur frequencies are constantly under threat. Lets use them efficiently and productively, or just allow them to be lost, eventually, to the highest bidder.

Once again, my thanks to Charles, for a point well made.

#### FINAL POINT

The winter season is upon us. Please be aware of veldt fires, which obscure vision on roads and freeways.

Please slow down. If it is possible, please radio your position to the nearest emergency centre and give them the opportunity to send out official vehicles to handle traffic through the hazardous area.

Good monitoring and see you next Sunday.

Bulletin ends.

We still need to strengthen our League membership total. If we all make an effort to gain just one or 2 new members, we can strengthen our base from where we can launch a strong offensive to guard our Amateur Radio frequencies which we all just take for granted.